

Application No. 09/936,266

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the amendments to the specification and claims originally submitted in the Amendment of September 10, 2001 are re-submitted in response to the Patent Office communication mailed July 9, 2003. In the present Amendment, the minor discrepancies between the clean copy of the claims and the marked-up version of the claims in the September 10, 2001 Amendment that were noted in the communication are corrected.

In addition, claim 40 has been further amended from the version submitted with the September 10, 2001 Amendment so as to properly refer back to the amended language of claim 39.

As to claims 1-24 and 44-46, although these claims have been non-elected, the Restriction Requirement was traversed in the May 5, 2003 Response. As the Patent Office communication does not indicate whether or not claims 1-24 and 44-46 will be examined with the elected group of claims, these claims have not yet been withdrawn. Applicants thus believe that omission of the claim status identifier "Withdrawn" for these claims in the present Amendment is proper.

Finally, claim 46 is indicated to have been "Previously Added" since the addition of this claim was previously paid for by the Applicants on September 10, 2001. Indicating that the claim is a "New" claim could result in Applicants being inappropriately charged again for addition of this claim.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that discrepancies noted in the previously filed Amendment have been corrected. A prompt and favorable action on the merits is thus earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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